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Agenda items 91 (a) and 93
Macroeconomic policy questions: trade and development
Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Letter dated 19 November 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Ankara Declaration, signed at Ankara on 29 October 1998 by the Presidents of the Azerbaijani Republic, Georgia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Uzbekistan (see annex).

We would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 91 (a) and 93.

(*Signed*) Eldar G. **Kouliev**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Azerbaijani Republic

(*Signed*) Peter P. **Chkheidze**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Georgia

(*Signed*) Akmaral Kh. **Arystanbekova**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) Volkan **Vural**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Turkey

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

98-37113 (E) 271198

Annex

Ankara Declaration, signed on 29 October 1998 by the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Haydar Aliyev, the President of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, the President of the Republic of Turkey, Süleyman Demirel, and the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, having evaluated the issues of exploration and production of oil and natural gas resources in their countries as well as the secure transportation of those resources to the world markets through multiple pipelines, and taking into consideration the urgency of decision-making, have signed the present Declaration.

1. For the consolidation of the independence and security of the countries of the Caspian region as well as the neighbouring countries, the Presidents considered the significance of exploiting the hydrocarbon resources in those countries. They also confirmed the need to transport the oil and natural gas resources through economically and commercially feasible multiple pipelines to support their efforts for economic development and to improve the welfare of their peoples. The Presidents furthermore reiterated their commitment to the principles of the European Energy Charter, stipulating the free, stable, environmentally friendly and unimpeded transportation of hydrocarbons.

2. As far as the hydrocarbon-producing countries are concerned, the Presidents underlined that the completion of the East-West corridor, including the Caspian Pipeline Consortium and the trans-Caspian and trans-Caucasus oil and gas pipeline systems, which are commercially acceptable, just and non-discriminatory, is an extremely significant project which will transport to the world markets the hydrocarbon resources produced in the countries of the Caspian Sea region and other concerned countries.

3. On the eve of a decision concerning the main Azerbaijani export pipeline, the Presidents strongly confirmed their determination in favour of the completion of the Caspian-Mediterranean (Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan) project as the main export pipeline project.

4. They also stressed the importance for this line to be open equally to the producers and to the transporters located on both sides of the Caspian Sea, and for throughput to be assured for the line. With this goal in mind, the Presidents are inviting the companies participating in the exploitation of the hydrocarbon resources in the Caspian region and other interested companies as well as the international financial institutions to conduct negotiations with the Governments concerned in a comprehensive and constructive manner, offering favourable terms and to support the attainment of the financing needed for the construction of the pipelines.

5. In conformity with the international rules concerning the protection of the rights of foreign and local investors relating to projects on the transport of energy resources to world markets, the Presidents have undertaken to instruct the relevant authorities in their respective countries regarding the creation, at the earliest date, of all the necessary conditions for the completion of the East-West energy corridor, and within this framework, the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline. They have also agreed to take the necessary measures to create favourable conditions for the investors.

6. The Presidents reiterated the importance of the maintenance of efforts for the protection of the coasts of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the Turkish Straits. The Presidents therefore stressed that the transport of the oil and natural gas resources to the

world markets through pipelines is indispensable to avoid the dangers and threats with regard to the environment, life, property and the safety of navigation stemming from the potential increase of the tanker traffic, particularly in the Turkish Straits.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan:
(*Signed*) Haydar **Aliyev**

For Georgia:
(*Signed*) Eduard **Shevardnadze**

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:
(*Signed*) Nursultan **Nazarbayev**
(Agree, subject to transportation of 20 billion cubic metres of gas to Turkey)

For the Republic of Turkey:
(*Signed*) Süleyman **Demirel**

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:
(*Signed*) Islam **Karimov**

Witnessed by Secretary of Energy of the United States of America:
(*Signed*) Federico F. **Peña**

United Nations A/C.2/53/10

General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 94
Environment and sustainable development

Letter dated 27 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach the text of the Guayaquil Declaration, which contains a message from the first Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on El Niño, held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 9 to 13 November 1998, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/200 of 18 December 1997.

In accordance with the decisions of that meeting and with the provisions of resolution 52/200 and draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.30, I should be grateful if you would have the Guayaquil Declaration distributed as a document of the United Nations during the present session under item 94 of the agenda of the Second Committee, entitled "Environment and Sustainable Development".

(*Signed*) Luis Valencia **Rodriguez**
Permanent Representative

98-37374 (E) 301198 301198

Annex

Declaration of Guayaquil

Guayaquil, Ecuador, 13 November 1998

The Government of Ecuador, representatives from public and governmental authorities from countries affected by El Niño, representatives from concerned agencies and organizations from within the United Nations system, the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific and experts from the international scientific community, as well as participants from other concerned sectors of society, assembled on the occasion of the first Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on El Niño held at Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 9 to 13 November 1998, called for by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 52/200 of 18 December 1997;

Reaffirm their commitment to continue their efforts to reduce the negative impact of the El Niño phenomenon, in line with draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.30 of the fifty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, which calls, *inter alia*, for the full and continued implementation of resolution 52/200;

Conclude that the global pattern of climatic extremes associated with the 1997–1998 El Niño event caused loss of life, destruction of shelter and food reserves, disruption of food production and transport systems and sudden exposure to extreme health risks and imposed continuing poverty on peoples and set back development in many parts of the globe;

Underline that natural disaster reduction forms an integral part of sustainable development strategies, at all levels, and must take into full consideration the interrelationship between climate variabilities such as the El Niño and the La Niña phenomena, the consequences of global climate change and the vulnerability of communities at risk from natural disasters that may be induced by extreme climatic conditions;

Emphasize the need for synergies between science and technology, public and private sector decision-makers and planners, as well as the public at large, in order to ensure the effective planning and implementation of measures that would prevent the negative impact of the El Niño phenomenon and similar climatic variables;

Call, at the same time, for integrated approaches to identify potential positive effects of such phenomena, in order to determine how to draw maximum benefits, where possible;

Recognize the opportunities for inter-disciplinary and multi-sectoral research, applied science and technology and preventive action, which are provided by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on El Niño, within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

Agree that natural disasters are of global concern and have their most severe impact on vulnerable communities, as well as on the economic and social infrastructures in the developing world, and can therefore contribute to increased poverty if no concrete action is taken towards integrated preventive strategies;

Expresses their strong conviction that it is necessary to strengthen scientific research on El Niño and related phenomena in order to improve forecasts and apply the results of scientific research towards the mitigation of damages and the realization of potential beneficial effects, particularly in support of vulnerable communities;

Express their concern for the loss of human life and the destruction of economic resources, in particular in the south-eastern Pacific region, which have occurred as a result

of the 1997–1998 El Niño event, as well as in other countries which have suffered recently from the devastating impacts of climatic extremes;

Reiterate their wish to intensify international cooperation, including multilateral projects for scientific cooperation and technology transfer designed to enhance the resilience of urban infrastructures and agricultural zones in order to lessen the negative impact of El Niño;

Conclude that urgent action is required to strengthen many existing intergovernmental programmes to achieve the objectives of General Assembly resolution 52/200:

- Improved monitoring of the climate system, particularly through the development of regional networks and the implementation of operational systems that have demonstrated proven value. Commitment of new funding for multi-purpose space-based systems and *in situ* observing networks of the Global Climate Observing System is necessary to achieve this objective;
- Expanded ongoing research directed towards improved prediction of climate variability on seasonal to inter-annual timescales. The World Climate Research Programme has demonstrated its effectiveness as a research framework and the commitment of new funds to the Climate Variability and Prediction study (CLIVAR) will give an important impetus to this established activity;
- Development and implementation of new climatic early warning systems at the regional levels, where required, and the strengthening of existing systems. The technological infrastructure, including specialized observing networks and regional communications and computing capabilities for data collection, analysis and prediction are costly and beyond the financial reach of most developing countries. Commitment of new funds will be necessary to establish a network of national and regional centres and is essential for supporting national climate services in countries of the developing world;
- Ensuring that the information needs of national sectors vulnerable to extremes of climate are met through regional and sector specific studies to develop the knowledge of vulnerability and sensitivity essential to underpin sound planning for protection, prevention and mitigation of the negative impact of El Niño and related events. Commitment of new funds for the purpose of impact assessments and the development of appropriate response strategies is required to reduce climate risk and establish safe community habitats;
- Capacity-building at the regional and national levels in the areas of observation techniques, data management and processing and in the use and interpretation of climate information and predictions for the early warning and prevention of natural disasters;

Emphasize the importance of developing regional models for the south-eastern Pacific and other affected areas to match the scientific aspects with the social and economic factors;

Also emphasize that the south-eastern Pacific region represents one natural, strategic and continuous case study platform for ongoing research on the prediction and monitoring of the El Niño phenomenon on the forecasting of its effects, on projecting its impacts and providing early warning and for developing and applying preventive measures;

Further emphasize that it is of utmost importance to join efforts of all countries affected by El Niño for the permanent study and monitoring of the phenomenon globally, in real time, which would enable the timely formulation of prevention and mitigation

measures through the creation of an international specialized center in the south-eastern Pacific region;

Recommend immediate action to assess the feasibility of establishing an international center for the research of the El Niño phenomenon, in Guayaquil, as proposed by the Government of Ecuador, and suggest that such action be undertaken within the context of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on El Niño, and that the results be reflected in the report on the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.30 to the next session of the General Assembly through the 1999 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council;

Take note, with appreciation, of the results of the ninth session of the joint Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/World Meteorological Organization/ Permanent Commission for the South Pacific technical group, held at Guayaquil, from 5 to 7 November 1998;

Entrust the Government of Ecuador, the agencies and organizations of the United Nations involved and the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific to present the conclusions and the recommendations of the international seminar on the 1997–1998 El Niño Event: Evaluation and Projections in appropriate international forums related to the impact of El Niño and related climatic events;

Also entrust the Government of Ecuador to present the results of the first Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on El Niño and the present Declaration to the fifty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly.